



UNITED STATES

August 15, 2000

Advisory Council on Historic  
Western Office of Planning and  
12136 West Bayaud Avenue,  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Advisory Council:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, is currently administering the Libby, Montana Asbestos Emergency Response Project. The project includes remediation of asbestos contaminated soils at the former W.R. Grace screening plant on the Kootenai River about five miles north of Libby. Remediation includes stripping of contaminated soils to a minimum depth of 18 inches below surface with some pockets of the landscape requiring removal of up to 8 feet of contaminated soils.

Archaeological site 24LN1045, previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register occurs entirely within the location scheduled for remediation. It is anticipated that the entire site will be adversely effected by planned remediation activities.

Enclosed is a report by Aaberg Cultural Resource Consulting Service of Billings, Montana which details the history of investigations of 24LN1045. This report also includes a proposal for recovery of significant information at the site as well as a review of the Section 106 process. We invite your review and comments on this report. Because of local community concerns about the extreme health and safety hazards posed by asbestos contamination immediate remediation action is required at the location of the old screening plant. Therefore we are asking for expedited review of the enclosed archaeological report.

On Thursday August, 3 a meeting was held at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office in Helena, Montana. The meeting was attended by Stan Wilmoth of the Montana SHPO, Paul Peronard of the EPA, Robert Alexander of CDM Federal Programs Corporation (contractor for the EPA), John Constan of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and Stephen Aaberg of Aaberg Cultural Resource Consulting Service. The enclosed proposal for recovery of significant information from 24LN1045 was reviewed and discussed at this meeting. Stan Wilmoth agreed in principal with the recovery plan but recommended that the Advisory Council and the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Council be contacted immediately since their review and comments are necessary in the 106 process. A copy of the enclosed information recovery plan and report has been sent to the Salish-Kootenai THPO.

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It is imperative that asbestos remediation progress swiftly. Remediation activities must be completed before inclement winter weather sets in. With your review and comments we hope to initiate archaeological significant information recovery at 24LN1045 within the next three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Sincerely,

Paul Peronard  
On Scene Coordinator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 8  
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Denver, Colorado 80202-2466